Confined Space Purging and Ventilation Reference Chart:

**Recommended Purge Time** = 7 complete air exchanges before entering a confined space.

**Recommended Ventilation** = 20 air exchanges per hour.

How to use the Alignment Chart:

1. Place a straightedge on the manhole volume (left edge of the scale).
2. Place other end of straightedge on blower capacity (right edge of scale).
3. Read the required purging time, shown in minutes, on diagonal scale.
4. If two blowers are used, add the two capacities, then proceed as above.
5. When toxic gases are encountered, increase purging time 50%.
6. Effective blower capacity is measured with one or two 90° bends in standard 15-foot blower hose.

Note: The above calculations are a guide line for use in non permit required Confined Space Entries. This is a general rule of thumb use in the Telecommunications industry and recommended by the T.A. Pelsue Company. OSHA regulation (1926.800(k) (2)) for Underground Construction states a minimum of 200 cubic feet of fresh air per minute shall be supplied for each person underground. As always, the atmospheric conditions should be met before any person(s) enter a confined space. (OSHA 1910.146). Use of a gas detection monitor is suggested when working in confined spaces.
Recommended Purge Time = 7 complete air exchanges before entering a confined space.
Recommended Ventilation = 20 air exchanges per hour.

How to use the Alignment Chart:

1. Place a straightedge on the manhole volume (left edge of the scale).
2. Place other end of straightedge on blower capacity (right edge of scale).
3. Read the required purging time, shown in minutes, on diagonal scale.
4. If two blowers are used, add the two capacities, then proceed as above.
5. When toxic gases are encountered, increase purging time 50%.
6. Effective blower capacity is measured with one or two 90º bends in standard 15-foot blower hose.

Example:

If a confined space is 2000 cubic feet, and the effective blower capacity is 900 CFM, the recommended Purge Time would be 15 minutes before entering a confined space. At 900 CFM, it would exchange the air about 27 times per hour (60 minutes).

Note: The above calculations are a guide line for use in non-permit required Confined Space Entries. They are a general rule of thumb used in the Telecommunications Industry and recommended by the T.A. Pelsue Company. OSHA regulations (29CFR 1926.800(k)(2)) for Underground Construction states a minimum of 200 cubic feet of fresh air per minute shall be supplied for each person underground. As always, the atmospheric conditions should be met before any person(s) enter a confined space. (OSHA 1910.146). Use of a gas detection monitor is suggested when working in confined spaces.